

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN. Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's, land, Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1900.

New Series—Vol. XX. No. I

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Every Wednesday,

—BY—
N. G. Osteen,
SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:
\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS:
One Square first insertion.....\$1.00
Every subsequent insertion..... 50
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Chinese Emperor's Letter to McKinley.

He Appeals for Restoration of Peace and Order.

Washington, July 24.—The following correspondence between the president of the United States and the emperor of China was made public by the state department today.

Translation of a cablegram received by Minister Wu on July 20, 1900, from the Tao Tai of Shanghai dated July 19, 1900:

Having received a telegram from Gov Yuan (of Shan Tung) dated 23d day of this moon (July 19th), who, having received from the privy council at Peking, a dispatch embodying an imperial letter to the president of the United States has instructed me to transmit it to your excellency. The imperial message is respectfully transmitted as follows:

The Emperor of China to His Excellency the President of the United States Greeting:

China has long maintained friendly relations with the United States and is deeply conscious that the object of the United States is international commerce. Neither country entertains the least suspicion or distrust toward the other. Recent outbreak of mutual antipathy between the people of Christian missions caused the foreign powers to view with suspicion the position of the imperial government as favorable to the people and prejudicial to the missions, with the result that the Taku forts were attacked and captured. Consequently there has been a clash of forces with calamitous consequences. The situation here becomes more and more serious and critical. We have just received a telegraphic memorial from our envoy Wu Ting Fang, and it is highly gratifying to us to learn that the United States government, having in view the friendly relations between the two countries, has taken a deep interest in the present situation. Now China, driven by the irresistible course of events, has unfortunately incurred well nigh universal indignation. For settling the present difficulty, China places special reliance in the United States. We address this message to your excellency in all sincerity and candor with the hope that your excellency will devise measures and take the initiative in bringing about a concert of the powers for the restoration of order and peace. The favor of a kind reply is earnestly requested and awaited with the greatest anxiety.

Kwang Hau
Twenty sixth moon, 23d day.
(July 19, 1900)

It is therefore my duty to transmit the above with the request that your excellency, in respectful obedience of imperial wishes, will deliver the same to its high destination and favor me with a reply.

Yu Lien Yuen,
Taotai of Shanghai.

Twenty sixth year, 6th moon, 23d day.
(July 19, 1900.)

Kwang Hau,
This cablegram was at once communicated to the president at Canton.

THE CHINESE CLAIM THAT FOREIGNERS ARE SAFE IN A BOMB PROOF.

Tien Tsin, 6 p. m. Sunday July 15, via Chefoo, July 17, and Shanghai, July 24.—Chinese from the walled city report that the foreigners in Peking are living, having taken shelter in a bomb proof. About 7,000 Chinese were engaged in the battle here July 13. More are coming from Peking.

Gen Nieh was imprisoned because he opposed making war on the foreigners, but afterward was released on the condition that he fight them. To this he acceded with lukewarmness. After the battle he committed suicide.

A large part of the walled city was burned last night and today, the Chinese held a perfect orgie, plundering, smashing houses and fighting like demons over stores of silk, furs and jewelry. Hundreds of dead Chinese men along the walls, or women and children killed by shrapnel, are lying among the ruins.

It is reported that some correspondents have, in their dispatches, asserted that Gen Dorward thinks Col Liscum

blundered in taking the Ninth regiment to the right instead of to the left, and that the feeling is strained between the Americans and British. The fact is that the greatest harmony and cooperation exist. Gen Dorward has asked the names of Americans to report them for gallantry.

The doctors decided not to amputate Lieut Leonard's arm. All the wounded are doing well.

Another Message From Minister Conger, but no Light Furnished.

London Does Not Believe in Safety
of Legations in Peking.

Washington, July 25.—The following cablegram has been received at the navy department:

Chefoo, July 24.
Navigation Bureau, Washington:

Written message, signed Conger, dated July 4th, received Tien Tsin 21st says: "Been besieged two weeks British legation. Grave danger general massacre by Chinese soldiers, who are shelling legation daily. Relief soon, if at all. City without government except by Chinese army. Determined massacre all foreigners Peking. Entry relief forces into city probably be hotly contested."

Washington, July 25.—The receipt at Tien Tsin of an undoubtedly genuine and authentic message from Minister Conger has done nothing to dissipate the doubt as to the situation at Peking. The message, which was forwarded by the naval officers at Tien, Taku and Chefoo, has indeed served only to deepen the darkest mystery of the century. The official conclusion remains unchanged, of course, but it is admitted that a careful scrutiny of the autograph message in comparison with the famous cipher message from Minister Conger admits of the belief that the two messages were dictated by Mr. Conger at about the same time.

The situation at the British legation is represented to be the same in each case, and as Mr. Conger declares that relief must come quickly if at all, there is ground for the supposition that conditions could not long have remained unchanged in such a crisis. The assumption that this reasoning is correct involves the further conclusion that Mr. Conger's cipher message, if genuine, was redated as of the 18th of July, two weeks later than the date of actual writing and of course, if redated at all, that was done by Chinese officials.

On the other hand and in support of the state department position came today a message from another of the great Chinese viceroys, Tak, at Canton, who took charge after Li Hung Chang's departure. This also affirmed solemnly the safety of the legations and coming from so many different sources and from such important Chinese officials, these dispatches do claim attention.

A pessimistic view of them, however, attributes to all a common origin, namely, some one high Chinese personage at Peking. It is noted that Tak's assurance brings the ministers one day further towards ultimate rescue than has any preceding message. The fact that it allows only three days to cover the transmission over the great distance between Peking and Canton has attracted attention here, and appears to demand explanation if the message is to be accepted as genuinely of Peking origin.

ENGLISH NEWS.

London, July 25.—Lord Salisbury today notified the United States ambassador that it was impossible to accept the evidence so far submitted by the Chinese or that transmitted by the United States regarding the safety of the foreign legations at Peking and that until their safety was thoroughly established the British government would be unable to discuss any question of mediation or kindred matters.

London, July 26, 4 a. m.—Mr. Conger's letter, the substance of which has been transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy through Capt. Thomas, has increased the belief in London that there is no hope for the foreign legations in Peking and that the elaborate fabric of dispatches which the Chinese are building to persuade the civilized world that the ministers are still alive is only intended to enable them to gain time to complete preparations for warfare.

The Shanghai correspondent of The Daily Mail asserts that a Chinaman who was employed at the British legation as a writer and interpreter has escaped from Peking, Niu Chwang and that he declared that at the time he left Peking most of the members of the legations were dead and the conditions of the others was hopeless. He says that Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese imperial maritime customs, died on July 2.

The correspondent goes on to say: "No other dates are given in the message from Niu Chwang. The leading

Chinese newspaper here published yesterday a dispatch declaring that it was all over with the members of the legations. The president of a minor board at Peking wrote to a relative in Shanghai, under date of July 9, saying:

"The foreign legations are still uncaptured, but owing to the daily fighting it is reported that only about 300 persons are left alive in the legations, and if there is any delay in the arrival of the relief force I fear that none will be left to receive it."

"This letter is regarded at Shanghai as authentic. Strange enough, it says nothing of any assistance to the legations by Prince Ching or Gen Lung Lu."

While these brief side lights as to the fate of the Europeans leave little ground for hope, Shanghai sends a batch of reports indicative of preparations of hostilities on the part of the Chinese. It is alleged that the Yang Tee viceroys have sent deputies to Shanghai to inquire as to the prospect of raising a foreign loan, ostensibly to pursue military operations against the Boxers, whose movement is extending rapidly southward with constantly growing strength and has reached a point where the provinces of Shan Tung, Ho Nan and Shan Si meet, leaving behind it a trail of burned missions and murdered Christians.

Simultaneously there is a movement northward of southern Chinese troops to join the main army gathered to oppose the foreign advance on Peking. The strength of this principal force is now estimated at 300,000 men.

It is believed that another two or three weeks must elapse before the Chinese preparations are completed.

The signs of unrest in the southern provinces are coincident with Li Hung Chang's presence in Shanghai. They are supposed to be the beginning of a general declaration against foreigners. In this connection the Canton correspondent of The Daily Telegraph wiring Tuesday, sends the following important news:

"Viceroy Tak Sa today published the following mandate:

"An important imperial decree was issued on the 23d day of the sixth moon. It says: We have lost Tien Tsin and great precautions are taken in Peking. No peace can be obtained without going through a war. In the time of Chuang an agreement was made that no murder can be inflicted upon ministers from abroad. It is a month since the minister of Germany was assassinated by Boxers and strict orders have been given for the arrest of the murderers. We are trying our utmost to preserve the lives of the other ministers and they are still in Peking. We fear that the viceroys and governors may misunderstand the intention of the decree relying upon the safety of these ministers as a ground for making peace and taking no heed whatever to prepare for attack and defense. The neglect to fortify the district under their jurisdiction will bring endless calamity. Viceroys and governors are to pay all attention to and urge on preparation for coast attack and defense and they are to take the consequences in case of any territory being lost entirely through their delay and mismanagement."

Chinese Government is Paralyzed and Incapable.

Washington, July 26.—There was no development today to warrant the assumption that there has been the slightest improvement in the Chinese situation. Indeed, the general tendency of such news as found light was to add to the steadily growing doubt as to the good faith of the Chinese government as manifested in its acts.

Admiral Kempff's letter, given publicity by the navy department today, made the direct statement that the imperial authorities were in sympathy with the Boxers, though he added that the government was afterward paralyzed and incapable of controlling the situation. This was the first official declaration to reach our government contradictory of the Chinese representation that the imperial government had steadfastly and from the first opposed the Boxer movement, and our government is bound to accept the word of its own officer until that is overcome by irrefragable proof. The exchanges that are in constant progress between the powers are tending more and more to cast suspicion upon the genuineness of the many communications that have come from Peking through Chinese governmental sources. If it should be finally established that there has been an attempt on their part to practice a gigantic fraud upon the world, the fact may call for a change of attitude on the part of the United States government toward China. This would not affect the military policy already under way, but merely the technical relation between the two governments, which probably would closely approximate a state of formal war.

The imperial edict promulgated yesterday by Viceroy Tak, at Can 02, has left a disagreeable impression here. Despite the Chinese minister's view to the contrary, this edict is looked upon as suspiciously like a preliminary to a formal declaration of war, and as only

one step toward securing time to move Chinese forces into better position for defense against the internationals.

The navy department today contributed a brief news item in the shape of a vindication by Admiral Remy of the United States marines from the general charge of looting at Tien Tsin. The admiral had a good deal more than this to report to the navy department, but the officials did not regard the rest of his report as proper for publication just now. Gen. Miles and Gen. Buffington were again in consultation, though separately, with Secretary Root today and the supposition is that the Chinese campaign was under consideration.

KEMPFF'S REPORT.

Washington, July 26.—The navy department has just made public the following report from Admiral Kempff dated June 20:

Referring to my recent actions in declining to take part in the seizure of the Taku forts and in afterward making common cause with the foreign force in the protection of foreign life and property, I would respectfully state that the Chinese government is now paralyzed and the secret edicts show that it is in sympathy with the Boxers.

The fact that under the existing circumstances the troops at the forts were given much extra drills, torpedoes were provided and, it is claimed, planted in the entrance of the Pei Ho, was considered menacing, and, by other senior naval officers, sufficient cause to justify them in demanding the temporary occupation of the forts. This culminated in the bombardment of the forts by other foreign gunboats on the morning of the 17th instant, which has been described. In this bombardment the Monocacy was fired upon and struck without having received previous warning.

It is now necessary to join with the other foreign powers for common defense and preservation of foreign people and the honor of our country.

I refused to join in taking possession of the imperial Chinese railway station and also declined to join in the demand for temporary occupation of the Taku forts, for I thought it against the policy and wishes of our government to be entangled with other foreign powers in such a step, and also because it endangered lives of people in the interior in advance of absolute necessity; for up to early morning of June 17 the Chinese government had not committed, so far as I am aware, any act of open hostilities toward the foreign armed forces.

In opening fire without warning, an act of war was committed, when many shots were fired at the place where the Monocacy was moored, about 3,000 yards from the forts. Those firing must have known of her presence there, as she had been moored in that position for a number of days.

Under these circumstances I regarded the situation as one for the protection of the national honor and the preservation of our people, and have acted accordingly.

600 MASSACRED.

London, July 27.—The Hongkong correspondent of the Daily Express wires as follows under yesterday's date: "An Italian priest has just arrived here from Hen Sien Fu, in southern Hunan, where the Italian bishop and three priests have been massacred after revolting torture. This took place on July 4. Six hundred converts were massacred after the women had been subjected to hideous brutalities. Six other priests fled to the hills, where they were probably killed. The priest who escaped a perilous journey to Hongkong. He hid in a coffin on board a river boat for 17 days."

It is reported from Tien Tsin that the Chinese forces are concentrating at GETSANG, 10 miles north of Tien Tsin, where it is said large quantities of rice are stored.

The Russian and Japanese cavalry are keeping in close touch with the enemy. The river is still low, and water transport will be difficult.

SOME HOPE IN LONDON.

London, July 27, 4:30 a. m.—All the powers appear to have received an identical Chinese appeal for mediation, but, in the absence of definite news regarding the fate of the ministers and of any reliable indications of the real origin of the appeal, it seems that Lord Salisbury, the premier, considered it was not even necessary to publish the fact that the appeal had been received or to do anything beyond formally acknowledging it, with perhaps an intimation that nothing could be done until news from Peking has arrived.

If it could be ascertained beyond doubt that the reports of a massacre at Peking were unfounded, and there is a disposition here to believe that the ministers may, after all, be held as hostages, Lord Salisbury's policy would probably incline more toward the conciliatory attitude attributed to Washington than to the revenge attributed to Berlin. But, while there is no cessation of the deluge of rumors, it is beginning to be believed at Shanghai, Canton and other points that the viceroys are as completely in the dark as to

affairs in Peking as the European themselves.

EARL LI MISTRUSTED.

Meanwhile the doings of Li Hung Chang are regarded with ever increasing suspicion, while the situation in the southern provinces daily grows worse.

With the report that the allies will begin to advance upon Peking in a fortnight and in view of Admiral Seymour's visit of inspection to the Yang Tee Kiang, the feeling is that no great time will elapse before matters assume a more definite shape.

The viceroys of Nankin still professes to be able, with the aid of the other Kang Tee viceroys, to keep order, but he declared that if Europe sends warships this will assuredly lead to an anti foreign outbreak. If it be true that the Japanese have started a campaign from Shan Hai Kwang, that also will precipitate matters, but the report of this effect lacks confirmation.

Now Doubt the Authenticity of Conger's Autograph Cipher Message.

Washington, July 27.—Unless some authentic assurance as to the condition of the Americans in Peking reaches the state department within a day or two the administration is likely to abandon whatever faith it has manifested thus far in the truthfulness of Chinese information. The Chinese minister is confident that within that time there will be news from Peking of a character to satisfy the most skeptical as to its accuracy, and he is also confident that this will be good news from the American point of view. The state department is still receptive, though looking with growing coldness upon the numerous edicts which are coming from China, all without bringing any news. The contributions of the day were from Consul General Goodnow, at Shanghai, and Consul Fowler, at Chefoo. So much of their message as was given out for publication related to the welfare of certain American missionaries who have been made the subject of inquiry by relatives in this country. The cables mingled these messages, and there is reason to doubt the value of the information attempted to be conveyed through them.

Mr. Goodnow also had something to say about the present situation, and it is believed that a part of his message was not of an encouraging character. At any rate, it was withheld from the press, probably because the department did not regard it as wise to give the stamp of its approval to matters which Mr. Goodnow wishes to be taken in a purely speculative sense.

Ever since the receipt at Tien Tsin of the autograph message from Mr. Conger, dated Peking, July 4, state department officials have had grave doubts as to the authenticity of the cipher message attributed to him, dated Peking, July 18th. There have been many little side lights on this message that afford ground for suspicion, and now the British authorities have added their quota to the growing distrust of things Chinese. It seems that a Mr. Warren, at present acting as British consul at Shanghai, has been told by Sheng, the famous Chinese director of posts and telegraphs, that Yuan, the governor of Shan Tung, told him (Sheng) that a message had passed through to the United States from Mr. Conger on the 18th of July telling of the conditions at the British legation. This fact is cited as confirmatory of these suspicions that the cipher dispatch was "faked" by Chinese officials. It is pointed out at the state department, however, that there are plausible explanations of this curious fact which tend to show the authenticity of the cipher. Secretary Ray called Mr. Conger that he might have implicit faith in the person who brought the dispatch to him. Mr. Conger therefore had a right to trust the man, and possibly he told him in a general way the contents of the dispatch, in case the messenger should be obliged to destroy it to insure his own safety. However that may be, the British government has thought Mr. Warren's report worthy the attention of our own government.

It is the earnest desire of this government that the forward movement on Peking be made at the earliest possible moment.

CHING FIGHTING TUNG.

Berlin, July 27.—A dispatch received here today dated Tien Tsin Tuesday, July 24, says: "A messenger who left Peking Sunday, July 15, brought today to the customs office here news that Prince Ching's soldiers had been fighting Prince Tung's troops and had been defeated. The foreigners were defending themselves in the northern cathedral near the Forbidden city."

FOUR MORE MURDERED.

London, July 28.—The Daily Express has the following from Chefoo, dated July 27:

"Four more British missionaries have been murdered in the province of Shan Si. News from native Christian sources say that for eight days a general massacre of foreigners has been

in progress in the provinces of No Nan and Shan Si. The governor of Shan Tung has wired the consuls here that he has prohibited the circulation of a proclamation threatening the native Christians with death unless they renounce Christianity."

Demands That Ministers at Pekin Must be Communicated With.

Washington, July 27.—Secretary Hay signaled his return to Washington from Canton this morning by the announcement that under no circumstances will the United States government accept an offer from the Chinese to turn over the foreign ministers to the internationals at Tien Tsin in consideration of a suspension of the campaign against Peking. A long cablegram was dispatched to Rear Admiral Remy at Taku, and it is believed that this instruction was laid upon him.

Secretary Hay's decision to decline the Chinese proposition was based upon his determination to adhere strictly to the conditions laid down in the reply to the Chinese emperor's appeal. The state department required that the ministers at Peking be put in communication with their governments, and the most significant condition of all—that the Chinese authorities cooperate with the relief expedition for the liberation of the legations. Until these two things are done the state department absolutely refuses to be led into any arrangement looking to the mitigation of the punishment of the Chinese government, such as the abandonment of the expedition at Peking.

The intimation was given that the purpose of Secretary Hay's decision was to head off a formal proposition, as the department has been made aware by Mr. Goodnow and by Admiral Remy, it is presumed that suggestions of this sort had been thrown out by the Chinese viceroys or their agents, though these had not been reduced to any official form. The department rather strengthened its position through being enabled in this way to reject the proposition by anticipation. It was pointed out that even should the other powers agree to any such proposition we would not consider it until Minister Conger's views were known. It is explained that to agree to such a plan might result in sending the ministers forward with an inadequate escort, and if murdered, we would then be stopped from demanding redress.

The Oregon Intact.

Washington, July 27.—The navy department this morning received the following cablegram from Capt Wilde commander of the Oregon:

Kure, July 26.
Secretary Navy, Washington.
Ship docked. Structural strength intact.
Wilde.

While this dispatch omits the technical details of the injuries received by the Oregon on a rock in the Gulf of Pechili, Capt Wilde is known to have supplied some of the details. They indicate that, although the structural strength of the great battleship is still intact, her injuries were of an ugly character. None of the longitudinal frames were injured, but the vessel's bottom was badly torn and some of her pumping connections were broken. The main injury sustained was to compartment A, as it is technically known.

Millions Given Away.

It is certainly gratifying to the public to know of one concern in the land who are not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, have given away over ten million trial bottles of this great medicine; and have the satisfaction of knowing it has absolutely cured thousands of hopeless cases. Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness and all diseases of the Throat, Chest and Lungs are surely cured by it. Call on J. F. W. Delorme, Druggist, and get a trial bottle free. Regular size 50c and \$1. Every bottle guaranteed, or price refunded.

We see it stated that unheard of cold weather is prevailing this week throughout nearly all Austria. Many parts of the Tyrol have had snow storms, not only in the mountains but down in the valleys. A heavy fall of snow is reported on the Montecenerio border, and on the Schneeberg mountain, near Vienna, a day or so ago, a tourist was frozen to death. In Zurich Lucerne and other points in Switzerland heavy snow has fallen and the temperature is down to 40 degrees.—Angusta Chronicle.

Georgia's First Bale.

Albany Ga., July 27.—Georgia's first bale of cotton of the 1900 crop was marketed here today. The cotton was grown by Deal Jackson, a negro farmer. The bale weighed 397 pounds. It was sold at 11 cents and was shipped to Savannah.

Hammocks from 50c to \$4 at the book store of H. G. Osteen & Co.